THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Government of India has been participating in the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) sponsored by International Labour Organisation. Under the Programme assistance is provided mostely to non-governmental Organisations for undertaking programmes relating to child labour. For the two biennia 1992-93 and 1994-95, the allocation for India under IPEC was US$ 3.65 million (over Rs. 10 crores). Altogether 89 projects with an outlay of Rs.8.5 crores have been approved and are at different stages of implementation. The Implementation of the programme is reviewed by a National Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the Government of India and ILO. The Labour Secretary, Ministry of Labour is the Chairman of the National Steering Committee.

The total number of children covered under the scheme, Stage-wise are as under:—

STATES	COVERAGE (No. of children)
Uttar Pradesh	2189
Orissa	1500
Tamil Nadu	5610
Andhra Pradesh	11715%
Bihar	240
Karnataka	1320
West Bengal	18065
Maharashtra	1750
Gujarat	950
Delhi	3900
Madhya Pradesh	500
Rajasthan	5850
Manipur	500
Regional	525
	54614

The objectives under IPEC which are sought to be achieved through its various projects in the country are:

(i) Enhancement of the capability of ILO constituents and Non-Government Organisations to design, implement and evaluate programmes for Child Labour Elimination;

(ii) To identify interventions at community and national levels which could serve as models for replication; and

(iii) Creation of awareness and social mobilisation for securing elimination of Child Labour.

Verification of Membership of Bhartiya Majoodr Sangh

839. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 785 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the final verification of the membership of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh has been finalised; and

(b) if so, result of the verification?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Coal by TNEB

840. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has been permitted to import coal; and

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing import of coal worth Rs.400 crores in valuable foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal can be freely imported under present Export and Import Policy and as such there is no need for any licence/permission from Government of India for its import.

With the reduction in import duty from 85% to 35% some power houses particu-